

I. What is Schoology?

From Website: "**Schoology** is an online course management system that allows teachers to create and manage academic courses for their students. It provides teachers with a method of managing lessons, engaging students, sharing content, and connecting with other educators."

II. How Schoology affects a particular VI teacher seems to vary based on several factors.

A. Degree of Vision Loss

Low Vision Students: Instant access to large print

Blind Students: High degree of skill needed to use Schoology

B. Teaching Philosophy of school

C. Degree of sophistication in how Schoology is used

D. Age/Curriculum of student

E. Level of access to Schoology

III. Using Schoology

A. Materials Access for the BVI Teacher

1. Classroom Teachers post their classroom files on Schoology which can then be downloaded by the VI teacher and turned into an accessible file

2. Dealing with the wide variety of content and accessibility issues can be challenging

B. Accessibility for Screen Reader Users who use Schoology- 4 levels of accessibility need to be addressed

1. The Schoology Website (Schoology states it is 504 compliant)

a. PC using website: Very difficult/ high level skills/ some say not accessible

b. iPad using Schoology app: (the app is much simpler than that website)

c. Android using Schoology app: Not tested. However, the Android app has the same simple look as the iPad app

2. The files and resources that teachers post on Schoology. A wide variety of content, both accessible and inaccessible, can be posted

a. Files: word documents, PDF files, PowerPoints, Excel files, etc.

b. Teacher created content in Schoology: Tests and quizzes, instructions, etc.

c. links to outside resources: study websites, videos, etc.

3. Students need to use accessible apps and processes which will allow them to independently complete assignments.

4. Students need access to document formatting, e.g., use of a braille display.

IV. What do screen reader users need to access Schoology content? This a new area, and something I have never dealt with before. I fully recognize that even a student with the best of skills will have difficulties accessing Schoology content.

A. Hardware and apps: This is my best guess as to what I think is needed. I will know more in a year, as I am just starting to teach my student.

Tablet computer: the operating system and apps in general are simpler than on a PC.

Touch Screen: to move through inaccessible areas

Bluetooth keyboard

Braille display

Schoology app

PDF reader compatible with screen reader, e.g., Evernote rather than Notability

A file management system compatible with Screen Reader:

e.g., GoodReader, which is compatible with VoiceOver

Word Processor which is compatible with Screen Reader

OCR App which is compatible with the Screen Reader: e.g., KNFB Reader

B. Skills

1. Ability to do document conversion, including understanding of the underlying concepts and the ability to recognize when files did not turn out well.
2. Knowing how to use apps and process which will allow them to independently complete the same assignments. (Word Processor versus PDF app.)
3. Ability to move documents between different apps and devices.
3. Use Braille Display to increase access to formatting.

V. Practical use of Schoology.

A. Lots of details to learn

B. Molly Ouellette set up a Schoology class and group, but she reported to me that it is not currently functioning. (One of those details is that when a semester/trimester ends, everything resets, and you have to get new course codes from the teachers.)

C. Is a Statewide taskforce/ group needed to share what we collectively learn?

D. Schoology and similar sites (Google Classroom) are the new normal. How do we adapt?